

evidence of it is that the exodus from this country, which had grown to alarming proportions, has largely ceased, and that many of the best of the people of Canada, who left us, are now returning. Not only that, but we have in the latest arrival of immigrants from that far-off land, a cheering evidence of the prosperity of Canada. Not only that, but a cheering evidence of the appreciation of the institutions of Canada that is entertained in foreign lands, we have these Doukhobors from Russia seeking an asylum in Canada, fleeing from civil and religious tyranny to this land wherein they can work out, under the most favourable circumstances, their social regeneration and peace, and in that thought we naturally feel a great pride in the people in this country. We feel like exclaiming in the language of another "God bless our noble Canada, our broad and free Dominion, where law and liberty have sway; not one of all her sons to-day is tyrant's serf or minion."

Then another paragraph in His Excellency's speech to which I invite the attention of this hon. body will be the question of the negotiations recently going on at Washington. I am a Canadian through and through, born a Canadian, a British subject—I would say if I were in the other chamber—perhaps the phrase would not be appropriate here—a British subject to the back bone. I have always taken this view that it would be to the interests of this country to have freer trade relations with our great neighbours to the south. Hon. gentlemen may differ from me in that view, but I think they will not differ from me in this view, that not only for the sake of ourselves but for the sake of the mother country of which we form a glorious part, that it is desirable at least that all questions of irritation between the two nations of Great Britain and the United States should be settled, and that right speedily. I have never felt, perhaps, as some have felt, that what is called reciprocal trade with the people to the south of us was indispensable to our existence, nay, not even to our prosperity; and I am not prepared to take one step forward unless I am met by another step from the people to the south.

Hon. Mr. McKAY—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—A quid pro quo.

Hon. Mr. KERR—I know that it is said Canada for the Canadians. I subscribe to that

doctrine to the fullest extent, but I subscribe with more heartiness, with more veneration, with more profound feeling when I say Great Britain and the rest of the British Empire for Canadians. But my doctrine is this: not only Canada for Canadians, not only Great Britain and her other colonies for Canadians, but I say that if, on fair and honourable terms, we can get access to the markets of 70 or 75 millions of people we ought to use all fair means and make an effort to secure that. Not only do I say Canada for Canadians, the British Empire for Canadians, the United States for Canadians: my doctrine is the civilized world for Canadians, to show their enterprise and their push. We have a vista of that kind before us, and in regard to these negotiations there have been evil prophecies. I had no sympathy with them. I never thought, knowing the commissioners, and their character and loyalty as Canadians and as British subjects, I never had any fears that the interests of Canada would be sacrificed, and I for one rejoice, as you rejoice, that when it came to that point they said "Not one step further in our negotiations without the interposition of the two governments," and I am sure that the Canadian people will endorse and approve of the action taken by the commissioners who represented Great Britain and Canada on that occasion. I will not indulge in any tirade against our neighbours across the line. Why, they are the oldest daughter, so to speak, of Great Britain. It may be a somewhat wayward and unfriendly daughter, but I hope to live to see the day when every vestige of unfriendliness between Great Britain and the United States, and especially between the United States and Canada, shall have ceased for ever. In connection with the negotiations it is difficult to fail to recognize the fact that two of the most distinguished of these commissioners have, for some inscrutable reason, been taken away by the hand of death and for the time further negotiations suspended. I am sure there is not a senator within the sound of my voice who does not feel deeply and sympathize strongly with Great Britain and the United States in the loss of those two distinguished men, who, I doubt not, fell in discharge of their duty to their respective countries, each according to his own view of the questions that came up. I do not know, hon. senators